

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
GILPIN COUNTY, COLORADO

March 26, 2020

A special meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of Gilpin County was held on March 26, 2020, in an online format; no physical meeting was held. Chair Gail Watson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. In attendance were Chair Watson, Commissioner Linda Isenhardt, Commissioner Ron Engels, County Manager Abel Montoya, County Attorney Bradford Benning, and Deputy Clerk to the Board Sharon Cate.

**Agenda Review.** Human Services Department Director Laura Solomon's update was moved to a later time in the meeting, as she was on a telephone call with the Colorado Department of Human Services.

**Board of Health Update.** Commissioner Engels moved to recess as the Board of County Commissioners and to convene as the Board of Health. The following was discussed.

COVID-19 Update—Potential Closing of Roads. Sheriff Kevin Armstrong informed the Board that a live telephone hotline for information on COVID-19 has been established at 303.515.4342 and at COVID-19@gilpincounty.org. Public Health Coordinator Bonnie Albrecht cited the most recent statistics for Colorado, with zero confirmed cases in Gilpin County. Commissioner Watson thanked the members of the new Gilpin County Public Health Advisory Board for their participation in today's online meeting and remarked on each member's stunning qualifications.

Sheriff Armstrong stated that there were approximately 1300 visitors to Gilpin County near the East Portal on Tolland Road, and other areas of the County have seen an increase in visitors as well. During discussion, the Board of Health agreed they would need to establish an official order that would close certain roads to protect residents from large crowds.

Commissioner Engels moved to have the Gilpin County Board of Health implement an emergency order that would close Tolland Road, Apex Valley Road and the County portion of the Columbine Campground road to non-residents to limit the health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in Gilpin County. Commissioner Watson moved to amend the motion by including essential services as being allowed passage on these roads for workers such as those working on the railroad near the East Portal. Commissioner Isenhardt seconded the amended motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0. Commissioner Watson thanked the Public Health Advisory Board for their help in the discussion.

Commissioner Engels moved to adjourn as the Board of Health and convene as the Board of County Commissioners. Commissioner Isenhardt seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

**Ratification of Small Business Administration Letter.** Commissioner Engels wrote a letter on behalf of the Board to the Small Business Administration (SBA), addressing the high interest rates on SBA loans and the ineligibility of casinos, which has now been reviewed by Commissioner Watson and Commissioner Isenhardt. All agreed to send the letter.

**Library Services Discussion.** Library Director Michael Carlson said and his staff had a great plan to make books and movies available to residents, but the plan has been canceled due to the State order to shelter at home. He said there are still online services, such as e-books and movies, and that more will be added

**Funding Request—Canyon Cares.** The Board discussed a request from Canyon Cares above the annual \$1,000.00 Gilpin County contributes. Human Services Director Laura Solomon said the Gilpin County food bank continues to receive generous donations. All agreed that the best option at this time is to direct all residents' requests for assistance to the Human Services Department and the food bank they operate, to consolidate efforts on one robust program. Commissioner Watson will send this information in a written response to Canyon Cares.

**Human Services Department Update.** Human Services Director Laura Solomon gave the following updates:

- Senior Services Supervisory Mary Ellen Makosky has been calling local seniors to advise them of food and medication delivery services and to ask if they need assistance with either. There has been no increase in requests for food and no requests for medication delivery.
- Food boxes for families have a larger quantity of food, particularly for children who were receiving meals at school.
- Public Health Advisory Board member Jamie Fanselow works with the Back Pack food program and will increase the number of boxes coming to Gilpin County to 25 or 30 on Wednesday mornings.
- Other groups are coordinating to provide food and other needs for Gilpin County residents.

**Emergency Operations Center Update.** Sheriff Armstrong reiterated that the Sheriff's Office will add information about COVID-19 and details on other services to its website. Emergency Manager Nathan Whittington added that the COVID-19 hotline has been established, and that the public computer in the Justice Center lobby will be functional very soon, to allow residents with internet access to participate in Census 2020.

**Budget Projections and Expenditures.** County Manager Montoya referred to the budget projections and expenditures sheet he and Finance Director Clorinda Smith had created and said some project could be cut or delayed, and only critical staff positions would be filled, with others being delayed. He also asked for an Executive Session to discuss the County's legal options related to the Congressional stimulus package.

**Debrief on Virtual Town Hall and Discussion of Future Town Hall Meetings.** County Manager Montoya said at one point there were 150 users viewing the County's Town Hall the evening of March 23, and that the within 60 seconds the capacity had been increased from 100 to 300, which should cover most meetings. The Board agreed that future Town Hall meetings will be held on Mondays, and will begin with a recorded message from the Board. Methods to advise the public of upcoming Town Hall meetings will be improved. County Manager Montoya commended staff that set up the online meetings, as Gilpin County does not have teams for this type of project.

**Golden Gate Canyon State Park Closing Update.** Sheriff Armstrong informed the Board that the Golden Gate Canyon State Park has announced it is closing all campgrounds, cabins and yurts, etc., and have been asking the campers there to vacate the Park. They will notify Sheriff Armstrong when the closure is complete.

**Document Management, Public Meeting Packets and other Technology Updates.** Additional ZOOM licenses have been purchased to allow more staff to arrange online meetings and format consistency will be a goal. For the document management system, the processes for vouchers, public meeting packets and secure document storage have been built; secure storage of documents related to the COVID-19 pandemic has been installed. Business Analyst Jaime Tirado is training staff, and continues testing and making improvements to the processes. County Manager Montoya gave a brief summary of how Board agendas and packets would be organized, leaving open the option to create a quick agenda using the current method, in the event of an emergency meeting. Business Analyst Tirado gave a video demonstration of the new voucher system to date noting that after further work and testing with the Senior Leadership Team, he will demonstrate the improvements for the Board.

**Black Hawk City Council Approval of Annexations.** At their March 25, 2020, council meeting, the City of Black Hawk approved seven annexation requests to facilitate the new distillery business on Lake Gulch Road. The business plan calls for 45 full-time jobs, 40 part-time jobs, and anticipates 60,000 annual visits to the area. Some of the business' acreage will be dedicated to residential development. Commissioner Engels Proximo is a worldwide company producing high-end alcohol and will be a significant and professional addition to the County.

**Public Comment.** The following comments were received:

Randy Beaudette, reporter for the *Weekly Register-Call*, asked if the Proximo Distillery's projection of using 100,000 gallons of water per day was a concern for the County. County Attorney Benning said the City of Black Hawk will provide water to the distillery and has an excess of water for their planning purposes.

Jim Wailes, 313 Chalet Drive, said he was curious about the status of processing building permits and calls for inspections. Community Development Director Stephen Strohmingier said he and staff are working on these as they usually do, and will soon process four or five applications on their new web permitting platform in ViewPoint.

**Adjourn to Executive Session.** Commissioner Engels moved to adjourn into Executive Session beginning at 12:00 p.m. in accordance with C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(b) to receive legal advice regarding public health matters and contract matters. Commissioner Isenhardt seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3 to 0. There being no further business to come before the Board, they adjourned at 11:48 a.m.

Signed this 31<sup>st</sup> day of March 2020.